

• Abroad •

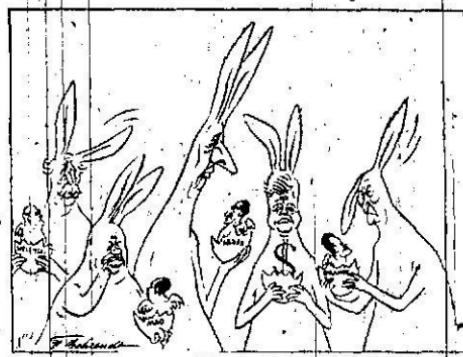
Rangoon. Western public opinion does not yet realize either the severity or the significance of the defeat which the Free World has just suffered in northern Burma. When Chiang Kai-shek withdrew to Taiwan in 1949, ten to fifteen thousand Free Chinese soldiers stayed in the jungle and mountain areas on the vague border between northern Burma and the Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Sikang. In the intervening years, many of these have married Burmese women and settled down as peasants. But some thousands have remained in semi-military status. This anti-Communist force-in-being has kept actively in touch with Taipei, and has received aid from both Free Chinese and American sources. It has been valuable not only as an intelligence center, but as a strategic outpost in the throat of the southeast Asian peninsula. When the Communists began preparing their currently expanding thrust into the peninsula, they decided that this gadfly had to be squashed. While Chou En-lai cozened U Nu in Rangoon with inviolable trade deals and promises of aid, Communist troops from north of the Mekong crossed the river and moved south inside the Burmese border for operations against the Free Chinese force. The Burmese government succumbed to the combined pressures of stick and carrot, and petitioned both Taipei and Washington. First Washington, then Taipei, gave way. The result is the airlift now evacuating the anti-Communist activists from north Burma to Taiwan. An awkward obstacle is thus removed from the path of the Communist takeover operations now rushing ahead in the Far East.

Algiers. As the political representatives of France and the FLN jockey back and forth in their delicate negotiations, the position of the French army in the field deteriorates. De Gaulle's policy makes it politically impossible for the French command in Algeria to mount offensive operations or even to continue the wide-ranging "broom" tactics that had swept the rebel units out of most sectors. The risks make no sense with FLN sovereignty already granted in substance, and a cease-fire soon to come. Similarly, the command feels it can no longer rely on its Moslem troops, 100,000 of whom are incorporated in the French Algerian army. It is thus not surprising that the FLN negotiators are in no hurry.

London. Since Lord Salisbury is no longer in the House of Commons or the Cabinet, his tactical position for putting immediate pressure on the Conservative Party is weak. But he is intelligent, conscientious, and much admired for both his character and his achievements. He is head of the Cecil family, for five hundred years one of England's greatest houses. The name of Southern Rhodesia's capital city accurately reflects the important role which the Cecils have played in African affairs. Salisbury's break with the Party and the government gives open expression to the dismay that has been spreading among Conservatives ever since Suez. What is giving this tendency

a new focus is the prospect—brought home by the recent Commonwealth Conference—that perhaps as soon as next year Jomo Kenyatta will be welcomed to membership among the Commonwealth Prime Ministers. The general public of the Western world still has only a faint awareness of the unspeakable frightfulness—the utter obscenity, sadism, Satanism—of Kenyatta's Mau Mau. No public journal has ever brought itself to publish the oaths and ceremonies in full. Salisbury speaks for millions of his countrymen who feel in their hearts that if the Queen is forced by her Ministers to receive the leader of Mau Mau, then England has reached the end of the road.

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Nevertheless . . . Happy Easter!

Dar es-Salaam, Tanganyika. Julius Nyerere, who will be Tanganyika's head of government on independence, December 28, is regarded by nearly all parties at interest, white as well as black, as one of Africa's most intelligent and responsible native leaders. The following is a sample of the lively common sense he showed in replying to questions put by *New Statesman*: "I think, frankly, that you can't avoid some political strings [along with economic aid] from any country. . . . Now, one thing Africa could do . . . is to refuse to arm. . . . If we arm in Tanganyika, no one would believe me if I said we were arming in order to defend Tanganyika from possible aggression by Britain or America or India or China or the USSR, because I could never defend Tanganyika against these world powers. So why should we arm? We could only be arming against Kenya or Nyasaland or Uganda. It is madness for Africa at this stage to arm against Africans."

Paris. Raymond Aron comments in *Figaro* on the U. S. affront to her, NATO allies through the UN vote on Angola: "If the United States is no longer going to pay attention to the susceptibilities of her allies, then these may follow suit in relation to Formosa and Cuba. And after all, in Latin America it is the United States that is considered imperialist. The Marxists and semi-Marxists of Latin America see a difference only of form and degree between yesterday's colonial situation in Africa and today's semi-colonial situation in Latin America."

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